



R I V E R

K E E P E R S

325 7th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

You are connected to a river

- ⇨ Your rooftop is connected to your gutter
- ⇨ Your gutter is connected to your downspout
- ⇨ Your downspout is connected to your yard
- ⇨ Your yard is connected to your driveway
- ⇨ Your driveway is connected to your street
- ⇨ Your street is connected to your storm drain
- ⇨ Your storm drain is connected to a river



RIVER CONNECTIONS

A citizens guide to river stewardship

Your actions affect area rivers. Whether as a riverfront property owner or as a resident of the metropolitan area—no matter your proximity—you are connected to a river.

Help Keep Your River Clean

Rivers are fragile ecosystems that are easily affected by human activities. Items that go down the storm drains in the street go directly to a river, not to a waste water treatment facility.

The following are some common sources of stormwater pollution and ways you can help.

Pet Waste

⇒ Clean up waste your pet deposits in the yard and public places. Pet waste contains phosphorus as well as harmful bacteria. Bury pet waste in the yard, place in garbage or flush down the toilet. It is illegal to compost pet waste in Fargo and Moorhead.

Automobile Maintenance

⇒ Use commercial car washes. The dirty water from the car wash goes to a wastewater treatment facility where pollutants are removed. If you wash your car at home, drive it onto the lawn or an area where the water will soak into the ground. The soil will filter out most pollutants.



⇒ Repair leaks and recycle used motor oil. Spots and pools on your driveway or garage floor should be cleaned with cat litter or floor dry and placed in the trash for disposal. Do not scrub the spot with detergent and wash the contaminated water into the street where it will travel to the storm drain. Motor oil and other automotive chemicals can be brought to the Clay County or the city of Fargo Household Hazardous Waste Facility, and some auto repair shops.

Chemicals

Paint and pool related items, can also prove to be very dangerous to the health of rivers. These chemicals can disrupt both plant and animal life in the river, as well as threaten the health of humans that interact with the river ecosystem.

⇒ Dispose of these chemicals properly. They can be taken to the Hazardous Waste Facilities.



Remember!
Any substance or material that enters a storm drain goes directly to a river. Never dump anything in a storm drain!

What can YOU do?

- Compost yard waste instead of sweeping it into the street.
- Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers only in amount needed.
- Do not overwater your lawn.
- Select native plants and grass which require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Reduce paved area and increase the vegetated area in your yard.
- Install a rain garden.
- Pick up pet waste.
- Repair car leaks and dispose of fluids and waste at designated drop-off or recycling locations.
- Wash car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink.

